

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Red Flag Warning

Sacramento- Extremely windy and dry conditions have prompted the National Weather Service to declare a Red Flag Warning for most of Northern California starting late this evening and continuing through Wednesday. Winds gusting as high as 40 mph are expected to begin this evening in Northern California from the Bay Area east to the Sierra Foothills and north to Shasta County. Humidity readings dropping into the teens and temperatures remaining in the 80's and 90's combine with the winds to create a very serious situation for potential wildland fire.

In response to the Red Flag Warning the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is warning people to be extra careful with fire. "The wildlands are extremely dry," warns CDF Chief of Fire Protection, Jim Wright. "Even without these winds, the fuels are ready to burn. Dry north winds just increase the chance that spark will become a major fire."

In response to Red Flag Warnings, CDF unit chiefs may increase dispatch levels, cancel days off and suspend burning permits. Anyone with a burn permit or campfire permit should check with local fire officials for any additional restrictions.

Chief Wright also announced that CDF will keep seasonal firefighters on the job for the time being. "Usually around October 1, we would begin the process of releasing seasonal firefighters. Not this year. Until further notice, we are keeping all of our seasonals on the job."

Much of Southern California is under a Fire Weather Watch, also due to expected windy conditions. A Fire Weather Watch is a lesser level of preparedness than a Red Flag Warning.

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